

Confidential information not relevant to the invention date of the present application is masked. There is no indication in our files that the specification of the present application was modified from a date prior to August 27, 2001 through the date of actual filing on September 21, 2001.

3. In view of the above, to the extent reference *Collins* (US Patent No. 6,723,219 B2) is relied on by the Examiner in the rejection of pending claim 24, the subject matter disclosed by *Collins* was possessed by Applicant prior to August 27, 2001, and was included in the final draft of the present patent application from a date prior to August 27, 2001, and which was subsequently filed on September 21, 2001.

4. The undersigned, Teresa M. O'Connor, hereby declares that all statements made herein of her own knowledge are true and that these statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent resulting therefrom.

August 25, 2004
Date



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[EXHIBIT A]



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[DATE]

VIA AIRBORNE

Mr. Robert W. Mulcahy
520 Sequoia Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled:
"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING METAL
LAYERS"
Your File: 5262/CMP/CMP/RKK
Our File: APPM/5262

Dear Bob:

Enclosed for you to file is a U.S. patent application and IDS for the above-identified docket. In accordance with our usual practice, I have enclosed a disk containing the application in WORD 6.0 format.

As instructed, I have also enclosed unexecuted Declaration, Assignment and Taiwanese Oath and Assignment and Application Summary Sheet, as well as three (3) copies of the application (one for each inventor and one for your file) and a copy of the IDS.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Patricia A. Verlangieri
PATRICIA A. VERLANGIERI

PAV/amd
Enclosures

Airbill#: 10429557250

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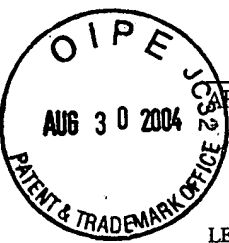
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[EXHIBIT B]



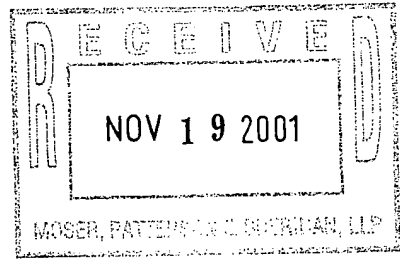
APPLIED MATERIALS



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

November 12, 2001

Todd Patterson
Moser Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
3040 Post Oak Blvd
Suite 1500
Houston TX 77056



Re: Applied Materials, Inc. Docket No.: 005262 USA/CMP/CMP/RKK
****PLEASE USE THE ABOVE DOCKET NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE****
U.S. Patent Application Entitled: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING METAL LAYERS

Serial No.: 09/961,134; Filing Date: 21SE2001
Confirmation Number Assignment: 4110
Inventor(s): Stan D TSAI, Shijian LI

Your Reference: APPM/5262

Dear Todd:

Enclosed for your records is a copy of the PTO's official filing receipt for the above-identified patent application. Please review this filing receipt, if you notice any inconsistencies, please use your own judgment as to filing a request for correction in the PTO, advising us of such action.

If an IDS has not yet been submitted to the PTO for this case, would you please prepare and file one; or give me a note for the file if an IDS is unnecessary. If an IDS has been prepared and filed, please disregard this paragraph.

Thank you for your continuing assistance.

Very truly yours,
APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.

Barbara J Holt for B.A.
Barbara J Holt
Patent Administrator
(408) 986-7273

[CONFIDENTIAL]

Enclosure

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[CONFIDENTIAL]